

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 22, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 57

Introduced by Assembly Members Jackson and Chan
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Liu and Yee)

(Principal coauthor: Senator Karnette)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Calderon, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Corbett, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Goldberg, Hancock, Kehoe, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lowenthal, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Nakano, Nation, Oropeza, Reyes, Ridley-Thomas, Salinas, Steinberg, Vargas, Wesson, Wiggins, and Wolk) Wolk, Bermudez, Canciamilla, Correa, Dymally, Firebaugh, Frommer, Jerome Horton, Lieber, Longville, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Parra, Pavley, Richman, and Simitian)
(Coauthors: Senators Bowen, Figueroa, Kuehl, Romero, Speier, and Torlakson)

January 13, 2004

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 57—Relative to the 31st anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 57, as amended, Jackson. Reproductive rights: Roe v. Wade.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to stand firm in their resolve to uphold the intent and substance of the United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, relating to reproductive rights, and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, “The March for Women’s

Lives,” in recognition of that decision’s historic importance in promoting women’s rights.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2004, is the 31st anniversary of the
2 historic United States Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*
3 (1973) 410 U.S. 113, guaranteeing women reproductive rights, an
4 occasion deserving of celebration and special public
5 commendations; and

6 WHEREAS, The 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* established
7 constitutionally based limits on the power of states to restrict the
8 right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* is one of the most significant
10 Supreme Court decisions in the 20th century promoting women’s
11 rights; and

12 WHEREAS, Reproductive rights are central to the ability of
13 women to exercise their full rights under federal and state law; and

14 WHEREAS, It is the right of every American woman to
15 determine when, if, and with whom to have children, and how
16 many children to have; and

17 WHEREAS, Women’s ability to control their reproductive lives
18 has facilitated their equal participation in the economic and social
19 life of the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, The state should not interfere with a woman’s
21 decision to either bear a child or terminate a pregnancy through a
22 safe and legal abortion; and

23 WHEREAS, Women should not be forced into illegal and
24 dangerous abortions, as they often were prior to the *Roe v. Wade*
25 decision; and

26 WHEREAS, During the first half of the 20th century, illegal
27 abortions accounted for about 50 percent of all maternal deaths;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* has reduced significantly the
30 mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies; and

31 WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* continues to protect the health and
32 freedom of women throughout the United States; now, therefore,
33 be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
35 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California



1 memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States
2 to do all of the following:

3 (1) Stand firm in their resolve to uphold the intent and
4 substance of the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision in
5 *Roe v. Wade*.

6 (2) Encourage all Americans to participate in the national
7 celebration, “The March for Women’s Lives,” on April 25, 2004,
8 to take place in Washington, D.C., in recognition of the *Roe v.*
9 *Wade* decision’s historic importance in promoting women’s rights;
10 and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all
13 Members of the United States Congress.

